

## CALIFORNIA PITCH CANKER TASK FORCE

### MINUTES

January 8, 2003

State Parks Conference Room  
Monterey, California

#### **In Attendance**

Richard Hawley, Greenspace – The Cambria Land Trust  
Stephen Staub, Del Monte Forest Foundation  
Jack Marshall, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Mike Branson, City of Carmel  
Bill Werner, California Association of Nurserymen  
Glenn C. Flamik, Forest City Consulting  
Tom Gordon, U.C. Davis  
Susan Frankel, USDA – Forest Service  
Karen Ferlito, Monterey Pine Forest Watch  
Rob Cain, Pebble Beach Company  
Deborah Parker, Greenspace – The Cambria Land Trust

Meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Staub stated that he was pleased with the comprehensive minutes of the Research Meeting in November. He asked Dr. Gordon if there were any technical changes to the minutes. Dr. Gordon stated that he had a few minor changes that he had emailed the previous night to the Secretary.

**Dr. Gordon moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Mike Branson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Susan Frankel encouraged the Chair to change the order of the agenda. She felt that it was necessary to discuss the strategic action plan and decide the plan of work before voting on the administrative contract. Chairman Staub agreed with this change in the order of the agenda.

#### **Press Release**

Richard Hawley reported that the press release outlining the proper disposal of Monterey pine Christmas trees was successfully distributed. He stated that Katie Facino assisted in the effort by emailing the press release to CDF's mass mailing email list. Several people noted that they had seen it in their local press.

#### **Strategic Action Plan**

Chairman Staub stated that he was interested in reviewing and refining the Task Force Mission Statement. As evidenced by Karen Ferlito's statement that she had heard that pitch canker is over, it is evident that the Task Force is working in a changing environment. Chairman Staub speculated about whether the Task Force is a permanent fixture or if it needs to be responsive over time to the environments in which it finds itself, such as political changes, agency changes and diseases. The mission statement needs to be considered in relation to the California Forest Pest Council (CFPC) and the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) to ensure the Task Force is working efficiently.

Tom Gordon noted that he delivered a report at the CFPC meeting in November. He stated that he informed the CFPC that the PCTF raised \$8,000 at the annual golf tournament.

Susan Frankel stated that the Task Force is an excellent arena for information exchange with individuals knowledgeable on the subject. It is beneficial to have this expertise available and to support further research. She stated that at a minimum the Task Force needs to continue its education and research programs. The question becomes how to support those functions.

Bill Werner suggested an ordinance for habitat assessment fees levied against developers, with the fees designated for pitch canker research. Richard Hawley noted that this is being worked on for the Local Coastal Plan of San Luis Obispo County. Discussion followed, including the question of whether this type of assessment would have to be approved through an electoral process.

Tom Gordon said that the Task Force continues to serve the function of maintaining some level of attention on the problem. Bill Werner added that it is important that the Task Force is in place if something new occurs.

Jack Marshall stated that there is a need for the Task Force and the strategic plan. The Task Force has assigned duties from its parent company; there is work at hand to complete. He added that the Task Force needs to do more than just share information; it needs to accomplish tasks that have already been assigned.

Richard Hawley noted that one of the things outlined in the administrative plan is to produce two newsletters, which would be a good tool to get information out to a number of people. Jack Marshall stated that there are deliverables due from CDF in the spring. The videos and handouts in English and Spanish are nearing completion. Tom Gordon said that this would be the type of thing that could be listed in a newsletter as available for purchase through the university. Richard Hawley mentioned that they could be put on the website and be available for downloading.

Steve Staub stated that the action plan tried to address these issues under management, education and research. Chairman Staub said that the Task Force needs to update the current action plan. The original plan could be significantly departed from while still using those categories; but there ought to be a current status and recommendations from all three areas. Then the information exchange could be ongoing from there as conditions change. The Task Force should use all three topics and write the current status and recommendations as deliverables for the year. Susan Frankel noted that it would be important to try to maintain a minimum program in each of the three areas. She said that as part of the education process, the Task Force has a public relations duty to make sure pitch canker doesn't fall completely off the radar screen. Ms Frankel stated that she spoke to Maggie Kelly and to Lisa about the GIS database. Ms Kelly was going to contact Dr. Gordon. Ms Frankel noted that Ms Kelly might create the pitch canker GIS website free of charge, since she has been funded for the Sudden Oak Death website for two to three years. However, Ms Kelly needs a list of data and the scope of the project from Dr. Gordon. Discussion followed. Ms Frankel noted that it would be easier for Ms Kelly to work with the information from Dr. Gordon first, before any other information is added, such as from Dr. Win, Dave Adams or the Cambria Forest. Dr. Gordon stated that he would attempt to contact Ms Kelly. Chairman Staub noted that the group has agreed on the general project and the details can be worked out at another meeting.

Richard Hawley noted that this project would be a good fit for a grant similar to the one on which he is working with Patrick Mathews. The program could help counties get an idea of the possible waste stream that will develop. Mr. Hawley noted also that a good companion piece to this website would be the Genetic Conservation Plan written by Dr. Deborah Rogers. A link to the website upon which the report is located could be provided.

Jack Marshall inquired if there was any response to the letters sent to the legislators from the PCTF. Chairman Staub said that he had not heard from anyone, but noted that Scott Johnson's name was in the letter as a contact. Mr. Marshall also noted that Tree Notes need updating, since the last issue is dated 1995 or 1996. He stated that CDF may produce it if they have the funding.

Chairman Staub and the Task Force went through the Strategic Action Plan document in detail, resulting in the attached document.

### **Contract Renewal for Administrative Services**

Richard Hawley presented the Task Force with the Greenspace Administrative Accomplishments List as requested at the September meeting. Mr. Hawley noted that the Greenspace Board of Directors is very committed to the Pitch Canker Task Force and has dedicated \$3,200 of inkind funding in order to help with the shortfall. He stated that this funding was voted on by the Board in the early summer and with the current state of the economy, it is possible that they could not make this promise again. Susan Frankel stated that the only other possible way to calculate an administrative contract would be to do it on an hourly basis. Ms Frankel concluded that it would be in the best interest of the Task Force to pay the \$600/month. Chairman Staub agreed, noting that it is a decrease of 40% from last year's contract.

Mike Branson asked what would happen after the ten months covered in this contract. Ms Frankel said that by that time the Strategic Plan would be finished and the workload would be clearer. Chairman Staub noted that the Task Force would also have received a financial report from the Treasurer by that time. Jack Marshall asked if the Task Force needed to get the approval of Scott Johnson before renewing the contract. Ms Frankel stated that the Task Force just needs to inform him of the contract renewal and stress the 40% reduction in costs. Chairman Staub explained that the problems arose last year because of a protocol problem which has been resolved.

**Tom Gordon moved that the contract for Greenspace be renewed for 10 months at \$600.00 per month from December 2002 through September 2003. Susan Frankel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### **ISA Continuing Education**

Glenn Flamik presented the Task Force with an updated agenda for the Continuing Education program scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Flamik noted the speakers that have confirmed and stated that there were other some speakers who were tentatively scheduled. He noted that Rob Cain will be contacting Dave Doctor from the City of Palo Alto to talk about trees and development. Mr. Flamik stated that they still do not have a keynote speaker for the event. The registration fee for the event will be \$65, with no lunch provided. A discussion followed regarding some other speakers that could be of interest, including an attorney that deals with hazardous tree issues and an expert on hazardous trees and root problems.

Mike Branson reported that a room in the Monterey Conference Center has been booked for the day. The room will hold 80 to 100 people. He stated that the Forest Service is paying for the room rental, but the facility needs a letter defining the Task Force's non-profit status and also proof of insurance. Ms Frankel stated that the Forest Service is the financial backer of the event and will take care of the insurance. Chairman Staub said that the Task Force would provide a letter regarding the non-profit status. Mr. Branson noted that food service has not yet been arranged. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Branson would contract with the facility for food service up to \$800. This should include coffee, water, juice and some type of snack. He was advised to contact members of the Task Force if it was necessary to go over \$800 and another avenue would be pursued.

Richard Hawley asked how the event is being advertised. Glenn Flamik stated that initially he would be posting the announcement on list serves that will be going out to arborists in California. He reported that the ISA list would cost \$1500. He felt that this was not a cost effect way of promoting the event, but he would like to work to get it in their newsletter. Ms Frankel stated that the Forest Service could do a mailing for no charge if the Task Force would put it all together. Chairman Staub asked if everything could be finalized by next week. Mr. Flamik said it could. Chairman Staub noted that Greenspace would be in charge of the registration for the event. A discussion followed regarding various mailings lists to be used for publicity. It was agreed that Mr. Flamik would get all the necessary material to Susan Frankel in a timely manner.

Chairman Staub stated that the Task Force did not need to review the materials before they go out. Ms Frankel noted that there was a possibility that the Forest Service might even print the brochures. Chairman Staub thanked the Continuing Education Committee for all the hard work they have put into this event.

### **Research Priority**

Chairman Staub noted that the Research Priority discussion will be moved to the next meeting.

### **Santa Cruz Grant Update**

Richard Hawley stated that based on the meeting today, he would like to tie the recycling grant to how much material will be coming down the pike. Mr. Hawley stated he will have a report at the next meeting.

### **Seed Storage**

Bill Werner reported that he contacted Deborah Rogers who spoke with him about an approach to seed collection. Dr. Rogers stated that the protocol for the seed collection would depend on the reason for attempting the collection, such as research vs. conservation. She mentioned that she is interested in doing some genetic conservation work and this might dovetail with her efforts. The approach she suggested begins with a status report on the historical collections and existing collections. Next the sampling must be designed. The collections need to be coordinated; for instance, regional coordinators for Cambria and Monterey should be certain their collections will be consistent. The fourth step is mechanical processing after which seed storage and seed disbursal would be resolved. This would involve long-term storage for research and short-term storage to be used for seed distribution to projects. Funding would also need to be addressed. The Genetic Resources Conservation Program receives proposals for \$2,500 grants in August and September, so a proposal could be prepared during that time frame.

Dr. Gordon asked of there any concerns about moving pitch canker with the seeds. Mr. Werner stated that the cones would have to be processed and the seeds surface sterilized where collected. He noted that he would be open to processing some cones, but would not be able to handle a large number of them. Dr. Gordon noted that the seed will continue to be viable at room temperature for five years.

Chairman Staub asked what kind of service this project is trying to provide. He stated that originally the Task Force was trying to find a storage facility with a minimal cataloguing function so that if people had seed there would be a place to put them. Dr. Gordon asked Mr. Werner if Secada Nursery was available as a storage facility. Mr. Werner said that Secada would be willing to store the seed but they have limited space at their Salinas and Morgan Hill facilities. Their storage is at 45 – 50 degrees, which is not optimal for the seeds. Chairman Staub stated that he was originally thinking that if trees were cut down and would no longer exist, it would be good to have the seed plasm from those areas. Mr. Werner noted that he spoke with Wally Mark, who stated he would be somewhat willing to be a clearinghouse for his stand.

Chairman Staub noted that Richard Hawley was the closest to having an immediate need for seed storage, as he has collected and sterilized seed from the Cambria stand. He stated that perhaps he was completely off base in thinking that there is a need for a non-scientific facility in which to store the seed.

Richard Hawley stated that if Bill Werner and Deborah Rogers wrote the guidelines for a project like one they were outlining, someone like the Monterey Forest Watch could write a grant for them to do the project. Dr. Gordon asked what the use would be of the material. Mr. Werner stated that in the long term it would be for research, while in the short term it could be used for conservation efforts.

Bill Werner stated that he would be willing to call Deborah Rogers to see if there is any further interest on her part. Chairman Staub asked that he inquire if Dr. Rogers is willing to do a protocol for seed collection. Mr. Werner noted that Dr. Rogers prefers tailoring that type of thing to specific projects; she hesitates to write a blanket statement. Chairman Staub noted that she could include a caveat that specific projects should have specific plans.

## **Old Business**

It was noted that Dr. Wolfgang Schweigkofler, post-doctoral researcher on pitch canker and David Dillworth would both like to speak to the Task Force at the next meeting. It was agreed that they would be invited to speak for fifteen minutes each and the Task Force would request that they arrive at 2:45 p.m. David Dillworth will speak first, after which Dr. Schweigkofler will speak.

Mike Branson reminded the Task Force that someone was going to appear before the California Forest Pest Council meeting in Sacramento in February. Chairman Staub stated that he would contact Scott Johnson. He added that he would prefer to appear later in the year so that he could distribute the Strategic Action Plan that the Task Force is now formulating. Chairman Staub stated that if CFPC would like an earlier presentation, he is sure that Dr. Gordon and he would be able to put a presentation together.

Dr. Gordon reminded the Task Force that they had directed him to work with Mr. Hawley to find some funding from New Zealand. Dr. Gordon stated that when Colin Matheson read the minutes of the last meeting and heard they were going to contact him, he contacted Dr. Gordon to ask the Task Force for funding. Dr. Gordon stated that Mr. Hawley and he felt that genetic resistance and induced resistance would be two areas that the New Zealand interests might fund. Mr. Hawley stated that he would show Dr. Gordon any response to Dr. Matheson before it is sent. Dr. Gordon informed the Task Force that he may be traveling to New Zealand in the next month.

## **New Business**

Richard Hawley reported to the Task Force that it appears the Pico Stand in San Simeon will be under a fairly good conservation easement within the next four to five months. He reminded the Task Force that originally there was a plan for an equestrian resort right next to the stand. Mr. Hawley also stated that Greenspace has purchased another 1/5-acre property and is working on purchasing a five-acre property within the stand of native Monterey pines. These properties would amount to over \$1 million of open space preserved with private funding.

Jack Marshall asked if the Task Force could line up several meetings in advance for easier planning for the members. He also asked when the golf tournament planning will begin and will it be a joint effort with COMFT. Mr. Hawley stated that the people involved in the golf tournament last year have already indicated their interest in pursuing it again this year, including Greenspace, CN Utility and Katie Facino. It was noted that someone needs to ask Pebble Beach if they are interested in hosting it again this year. Ms. Frankel asked if the Task Force would still like to partner with COMTF. It was agreed that the Task Force would like to partner and perhaps a more equitable distribution of any profits might be reached. Chairman Staub stated that Greg Holquist should be contacted to inquire about a site for the tournament, with the possibility of a more northern site, and that coordination with COMTF should begin.

**The next meeting of the Pitch Canker Task Force will be Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at the State Parks Conference Room in Monterey. This will correspond with the continuing education seminar being held in Monterey on March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- ◆ Dr. Tom Gordon will contact Maggie Kelly and begin to provide her with the information necessary to create a GIS database for pitch canker.
- ◆ Members of the Task Force will write sections of the Strategic Action Plan before the next meeting.
- ◆ Susan Frankel will provide Proof of Insurance to the Monterey Conference Center for the upcoming continuing education seminar. Richard Hawley will provide them with a Non-Profit Status letter. Glenn Flamik will get all necessary material to Susan Frankel for a mailing to advertise the event.
- ◆ Bill Werner will contact Deborah Rogers to pursue seed collection partnership.
- ◆ Greg Holquist will be contacted to find a site for the next golf tournament.
- ◆ Dr. Wolfgang Schweigkofler and David Dillworth will be contacted to speak for 15 minutes at the end of the next Task Force meeting.
- ◆ Steve Staub will contact Scott Johnson about appearing before the California Forest Pest Council after the Strategic Action Plan is completed.